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Title : Need to give approval to proposals of the Government of Gujarat for the border road projects linking Kutch and Banaskantha districts of the State.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): The State Government of Gujarat submitted a proposal for the construction/improvement of border road linking Ghaduli - Hajpur - Khavda -Santalpur (8 stretches totaling 151.7 kms) joining Kutch and Banaskantha district. The State Government would be in a position to execute the work, which was initially estimated to cost Rs. 84.95 crores but estimated to cost Rs. 127.119 Crores. The proposed work would be completed within 12 months from the date of commencement of the work. The stretch of 151 Kms is needed to connect the missing links in the area facing Greater Rann of Kutch so that the mobility and accessibility of our security forces to improve further to maintain vigil in an effective way.

The ancient historic site of Dholavira has been declared as a heritage site of the Harappan age which is of tourist importance. Construction of Khavda - Dholavira stretch will boost tourism activities as tourists will find it easily accessible from Bhuj which is the District HQ of Kutch District. Today to reach this site from Bhuj town via Bhachau and Rapar takes about half a day. After completing of the above mentioned stretch (Khavda - Dholavira), it would be possible to reach Dholavira from Bhuj in 2.5 hrs via Khavda-Kunaria-Dholavira route. This will help tourists to visit Dholavira and come back to Bhuj the same day. Construction of the road will make the mobility much easier. This will solve problems of BSF for getting fresh drinking water on daily basis. Once the roads are constructed, water pipeline can also be laid along roadsides. This will help cutting the daily recurring expenditure of providing water through Tankers.

Keeping the above facts in view, I urge upon the Government to approve the revised estimate of Rs. 127.119 Crores as submitted by Government of Gujarat so that the project can be taken up as immediately as possible.